

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical device for the treatment of atherosclerotic vulnerable plaque comprising:

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a stent for maintaining vessel patency and providing structural support for a fibrous cap of the vulnerable plaque lesion;

a biocompatible vehicle affixed to at least a portion of the stent:

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and

a combination of a rapamycin and 17 beta-estradiol, in therapeutic dosages, incorporated into the biocompatible vehicle for treating at least one of the fibrous cap and a lipid core of the vulnerable plaque lesion.

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2. The medical device for the treatment of atherosclerotic vulnerable plaque according to Claim 1, wherein the stent is balloon expandable.

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3. The medical device for the treatment of atherosclerotic vulnerable plaque according to Claim 1, wherein the stent is self-expanding.

4. The medical device for the treatment of atherosclerotic vulnerable plaque according to Claim 1, wherein the biocompatible vehicle comprises a polymeric coating.

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5. The medical device for the treatment of atherosclerotic vulnerable plaque according to Claim 1, wherein the rapamycin comprises sirolimus.

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